

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 INRE-00 PM-03 L-02 DODE-00

NEA-06 EUR-10 IO-03 DPW-01 SPC-01 SR-02 ORM-03 DRC-01

PRS-01 /082 W

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O R 111030Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7972

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USDEL JEC PARIS UNN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI

CG FMFPAC

CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB IMMEDIATE

CINCUSARPAC FT SHAFTER

COMUSMACTHAI

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USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 5 SAIGON 17790

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, MILI, VS

SUBJECT: VIET-NAM CEASE-FIRE WEEKLY ASSESSMENT OCT 3-9, 1973

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUMMARY: IN MR 1, THE RELATIVELY HIGH LEVEL OF ENEMY ACTIVITY SOUTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS SUBSIDED ONLY WITH THE ADVENT OF A TROPICAL STORM ON OCTOBER 6. EVEN HERETOFORE QUIET QUANG TIN HAS EXPERIENCED A RISE IN ACTIVITY TO A LEVEL COMPARABLE WITH THAT IN TRADITIONALLY TURBULENT QUANG NGAI. THE DECREASE IN ACTIVITY IN MR 2 WAS ALSO ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE WEATHER. THE GVN EFFORT TO RETAKE LE MINH IS PROCEEDING SLOWLY IN THE FACE OF BAD WEATHER AND STIFF COMMUNIST RESISTANCE. IN PHU YEN, AN INCREASE IN GROUND ATTACKS AND OTHER EVIDENCE APPEARS TO PRESAGE A NEW CAMPAIGN AGAINST GVN OUTPOSTS. IN MR 3, ARVNAF IS ATTEMPTING TO FLUSH OUT THE ENEMY UNITS IN LOWER TAY NINH RESPONSIBLE FOR LAST WEEK'S AMBUSH OF AN ARVN BATTALION AND IS RETALIATING WITH EXTENSIVE AIR STRIKES IN PRG BASE AREAS IN THE UPPER PROVINCE. VNAF SPOTTER PLANES REPORT TWICE SIGHTING UNIDENTIFIED HELICOPTERS ON OCTOBER 5. NEITHER THE LEVEL NOR THE PATTERN OF ACITVITY CHANGED IN MR 4: DINH TUONG REMAINED ACTIVE AND CHUONG THIEN RELATIVELY QUIET, WHILE RANGER UNITS PERSISTED IN THEIR UNDISTINGUISHED EFFORTS TO RETAKE GIAI MOUNTAIN IN CHAU DOC. TWO ARVN BATTALIONS DESTROYED AN INFILTRATING NVA UNIT IN EASTERN KIEN TUONG. A PRESUMABLE COMMUNIST AMBUSH IN

BA XUYEN RESULTED IN THE DISAPPEARANCE OF AN AMERICAN AND TWO LOCAL PA&E EMPLOYEES. THROUGH WALKOUTS AND INTENSIFIED ALLEGATIONS OF U.S. -FOSTERED, GVN CEASEIFRE VIOLATIONS, THE COMMUNISTS CONTINUE TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR DISPLEASURE WITH AN UNINIMIDATED GVN AND PREVENT SERIOUS DISCUSSION IN ANY OF THE FORUMS ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO THE PARIS AGREEMENT.

PART I: ICCS

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1. ICCS REPORTEDLY HELD A SPECIAL SESSION OCTOBER 9 ON ITS FINANCIAL SITUATION, AND APPARENTLY DECIDED TO ADDRESS YET ANOTHER URGENT APPEAL TO THE FOUR PARTIES FOR IMMEDIATE FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS IN ORDER TO AVOID CANCELLATION OF ESSENTIAL SERVICES BY ITS CONTRACTING FIRMS. DIRECTOR GENERAL NUR HAS BEEN HEAVILY INVOLVED IN INDIVIDUAL CONSULTATIONS WITH EACH OF THE FIRMS IN ORDER TO GAIN ADDITIONAL TIME, BUT THE MAJOR CONTRACTORS ARE PREPARING TO

TERMINATE OR REDUCE SERVICES APPRECIABLY UNLESS ICCS IMMEDIATELY PAYS OUTSTANDING DEBTS OR IS ABLE TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENTLY STRONG GUARANTEES OF PAYMENT IN THE NEAR FUTURE. MEANWHILE, THE ARRIVAL OF THE FIRST PART OF THE IRANIAN DELEGATION HAS BEEN DELAYED AGAIN FOR AT LEAST THREE DAYS, PERHAPS BECAUSE OF IRANIAN AMBASSADOR SADRI'S CONCERN OVER THE ICCS'S FINANCIAL POSITION.

2. ICCS HAS ALSO BEEN ASKED TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE IN APPROACHING THE TWO SOUTH VIETNAMESE PARTIES TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ABOUT THE THREE PA&E EMPLOYEES - ONE AN AMERICAN CITIZEN - WHO WERE AMBUSHED ON ROUTE 4 AND ABDUCTED BY PERSONS UNKNOWN THE EVENING OF OCTOBER 6. OCTOBER ICCS CHAIRMAN, HUNGARIAN AMBASSADOR ESZTERGALYOS, HAS APPARENTLY DECIDED TO AVOID ICCS INVOLVEMENT IN THE AFFAIR BECAUSE HE DOES NOT WISH TO ASSOCIATE HUNGARIAN DEL WITH AN ACTION WHICH CONCEIVABLY MIGHT BE INTERPRETED AS CRITICAL OF THE PRG.

3. SEVERAL APPROACHES HAVE BEEN MADE TO ENLIST THE PRG IN THE EFFORT TO LOCATE AND RECOVER THE MISSING PA&E EMPLOYEES. ON OCTOBER 9, THE CHIEF OF THE USFPJMT DEL MET PRIVATELY WITH A PRG COUNTERPART. THE LATTER LISTENED POLITELY AND, THOUGH HE HAD NO INFORMATION TO PERMIT HIM TO REPLY TO THE US INQUIRY AT THAT TIME, DECLARED THAT THE PRG MUST DO ITS BEST TO RESPOND. PA&E HAS ALSO REQUESTED BY LETTER THAT THE TPJMC CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION TO LOCATE AND OBTAIN RELEASE OF ITS EMPLOYEES. TO DATE THERE HAS BEEN NO RESPONSE TO EITHER OF THE ABOVE APPROACHES, BUT THE PRG HAS REPLIED TO A POLISH ICCS INQUIRY (SEE PART VIII, BELOW) THAT ITS PERSONNEL WERE NOT INVOLVED IN WHAT IT TERMED AN ABDUCTION "BY BANDITS."

PART II: FPJMT

1. DURING THE PAST WEEK THE DRV AND PRG DELEGATIONS CONTINUED
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TO ALLEGE U.S. AND RVN VIOLATIONS OF THE CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT AND, FOR THE FIRST TIME, REQUESTED AN ACCOUNTING OF VIETNAMESE PERSONNEL KILLED, CAPTURED AND DETAINED BY U.S. AND ALLIED UNITS. THE RVN DELEGATION UNSUCCESSFULLY URGEEU THE PRG DELEGATION TO DISCUSS AN EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON PRG AND RVN SOLDIERS WHO HAD DIED IN ACTION, WHILE THE U.S. DELEGATION WAS EQUALLY UNSUCCESSFUL IN PERSUADING THE OTHER SIDE TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON U.S. AND THIRD-COUNTRY PERSONNEL MISSING OR DIED IN CAPTIVITY. ON OCTOBER 9, AFTER READING A PREPARED STATEMENT PROTESTING NVAF AIR STRIKES AGAINST COMMUNIST POSITION IN TAY NINH PROVINCE, THE PRG DELEGATION (FOR THE SECOND TIME IN TWO WEEKS) WALKED OUT OF THE SESSION
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CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 L-02 DODE-00

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DRC-01 /082 W

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O R 111030Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7973

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI

CG FMFPAC

CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB IMMEDIATE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 5 SAIGON 17790

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PART V: MR-1

1. SECURITY SITUATION:

ACCORDING TO I CORPS HEADQUARTERS THERE WERE 123 CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS LAST WEEK. THIS IS A DAILY AVERAGE OF 17, TWO LESS THAN LAST WEEK'S AVERAGE. GVN CASUALTIES: 42 KIA, 259 WIA. PRG/NVA LOSSES: 136 KIA, 4 RETURNEES. FRIENDLY ARTILLERY FIRED 934 ROUNDS NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS, AND 5,409 ROUNDS SOUTH. HEAVY RAINS AND FLOODING FROM TROPICAL STORM OPAL LIMITED OPERATIONS OF BOTH SIDES IN MR-1 FROM OCTOBER 6 ON.

2. QUANG TRI - THUA THIEN:

MILITARY ACTIVITY REMAINED AT A RELATIVELY LOW LEVEL NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS. EARLY IN THE WEEK MINOR SHELLING ATTACKS WERE REPORTED AND SEVERAL UNSUCCESSFUL GROUND PROBES AT FRIENDLY OUTPOSTS. HEAVY RAINS AND FLOODING LATER IN THE WEEK BROUGHT MILITARY ACTIVITY TO A VIRTUAL HALT IN THE TWO PROVINCES.

3. QUANG NAM:

SOME CASUALTIES WERE CAUSED BY LIGHT GROUND PROBES, ATTACKS BY FIRE AND MINES EARLY IN THE WEEK.

4. QUANG TIN:

IN THE PAST TWO WEEKS ENEMY ACTIVITY HAS GROWN TO A SIGNIFICANT LEVEL IN HERETOFORE QUIET QUANG TIN. ON OCTOBER 4 THERE WERE 15 INCIDENTS INCLUDING THE FIRST ROCKETING OF TAM KY CITY SINCE DECEMBER 1972. TWO ROCKETS KILLED 4 CIVILIANS AND DAMAGED 3 HOUSES THERE. ON OCTOBER 5 TWO MORE ROCKETS WERE FIRED INTO TAM KY, WOUNDING 2 MORE CIVILIANS. THE ROCKETINGS PROMPTED SOME OF THE PEOPLE IN TAM KY TO REBUILD BUNKERS DISMANTLED AFTER THE
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CEASEFIRE.

5. QUANG NGAI:

AS IN QUANG TIN, ENEMY ACTIVITY WAS AT A RELATIVELY HIGH LEVEL JUST BEFORE THE RAINS, AVERAGING TEN INCIDENTS A DAY. ON OCTOBER 5 AN ASSISTANT HAMLET CHIEF IN SON TINH DISTRICT WAS ASSASSINATED. THE LATTER PART OF THE WEEK WAS QUIET.

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CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 L-02 DODE-00

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DRC-01 /082 W

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O R 111030Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7974

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 3 OF 5 SAIGON 17790

LIMDIS

PART VI: MR-2

1. MILITARY SITUATION: POSSIBLY BECAUSE OF THE TYPHOON WHICH STRUCK NORTHERN MR 2 ON OCT 5 FOLLOWED BY HEAVY RAINS AND FLOODING, THE NUMBER OF INCIDENTS DURING THE WEEK TOTALLED ONLY 114, COMPARED TO 147 THE PREVIOUS WEEK. THE DISTRIBUTION WAS NORMAL, WITH 47 IN BINH DINH, 27 IN KONTUM, 18 IN PLEIKU, 16 IN PHU YEN, 5 IN BINH THUAN AND 1 IN KHANH HOA. INCLUDED IN THE ABOVE IS AN INCIDENT IN WHICH A TPJMC HELICOPTER RECEIVED FIRE 5 KM NW OF THIEN GIAO, BETWEEN PHAN THIET AND DALAT. RVNAF CASUALTIES DECLINED FROM 48 KIA AND 200 WIA TO 39 KIA AND 150 WIA. COMMUNIST KIA FELL FROM 184 TO 161. ONLY 116 AIR STRIKES WERE REPORTED, NONE DURING THE LAST THREE DAYS BECAUSE OF BAD FLYING WEATHER. THERE WERE 88 IN PLEIKU, 33 IN KONTUM AND 2 IN BINH DINH. THE ONLY REFLECTION IN THE DAILY BRIEFINGS OF THE REPORTEDLY HEAVY FIGHTING WEST OF PLEIKU AIMED AT RETAKING LE MINH (PLEI DJERENG) IS THE HIGH NUMBER OF AIR STRIKES IN

THAT PROVINCE.

2. PLEIKU/KONTUM: THE GVN EFFORT TO RETAKE LE MINH IS PROCEEDING SLOWLY IN THE FACE OF BAD WEATHER AND STIFF COMMUNIST RESISTANCE. GOVERNMENT FORCES ARE TEMPORARILY BOGGED DOWN SOME 14 KM WEST OF PLEIKU CITY. MANY OF THE AIR STRIKES IN PLEIKU, HOWEVER, SEEM TO BE AIMED AT THE NVA 470 TRANSPORTATION GROUP WHICH WAS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED PREPARING TO CUT QL 14 AND 19. ATTACKS AGAINST THE 470TH MAY BE DESIGNED TO REDUCE THE POSSIBILITY OF THESE ROUTES BEING BLOCKED AND, THEREBY, DENYING RVNAF THE LOGISTICAL SUPPORT NECESSARY IN THE MOVE AGAINST LE MINH. ON OCT 6, AN ORDERLY DEMONSTRATION OF SOME 2,000 PERSONS IN PLEIKU CITY PROTESTED THE COMMUNIST SEIZURE OF LE MINH. A CASH REWARD WAS OFFERED FOR THE FIRST UNIT TO ENTER LE MINH AND A STRONGLY WORDED NOTE WAS GIVEN TO THE GVN DELEGATE TO THE TPJMC, WHO PROMISED TO PASS IT TO THE ICCS. THE ONLY SIGNIFICANT ACTION IN KONTUM IS AROUND HILL 727, WHERE IT IS REPORTED THAT THE ARVN 45TH REGT IS ABOUT TO BE THROWN
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INTO THE CONTINUING ATTEMPT TO DISLODGE ELEMENTS OF THE NVA 95B REGT.

3. BINH DINH: THE IMPENDING MOVE OF THE 47TH REGT FROM BINH DINH TO PLEIKU TO BOLSTER THE FORCES ATTEMPTING TO

RETAKE LE MINH IS CAUSING SOME UNEASE AMONG OFFICIALS IN BINH DINH. THE MOVE, WHICH IS TO BE COMPLETED WITHIN TWO WEEKS WILL LEAVE BINH DINH VULNERABLE SHOULD THE COMMUNISTS INTRODUCE NEW TROOPS. QL 1 IS CLOSED IN TAM QUAN DISTRICT. THREE BRIDGES WHICH WERE DESTROYED IN 1972 HAVE YET TO BE REPLACED AND THE DIRT AND ROCK BY-PASSES HAVE WASHED OUT IN THE POST TYPHOON FLOODS. BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION IS SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION BY NOVEMBER.

4. PHU YEN: A RECENTLY CAPTURED DOCUMENT PLACES COMMUNIST COMBAT STRENGTH AT APPROXIMATELY 1,300 WITH AN ADDITIONAL 1,000 IN SUPPORT ROLES. PROVINCE OFFICIALS HAD PREVIOUSLY ESTIMATED ENEMY COMBAT AND SUPPORT FORCES AT OVER 3,000. GROUND ATTACKS IN THE PROVINCE ARE INCREASING AND OUR PROVINCE REPRESENTATIVE IN TUY HOA BELIEVES THAT AN AUTUMN/WINTER CAMPAIGN AGAINST GVN OUTPOSTS WILL BE LAUNCHED SOON. COMMUNISTS ARE NOW HOLDING FULL-SCALE MANEUVERS IN ABANDONED AREAS.

5. OTHER AREAS: MILITARY CONTACT IN SOUTHERN MR-2 WAS AT ITS NORMAL LOW LEVEL. THE MAJOR GVN EFFORT IN THAT AREA IS DEVOTED TO DENYING THE COMMUNISTS ACCESS TO RICE.

6. ICCS: TWO ICCS HELICOPTERS RECEIVED SMALL ARMS FIRE IN THE VICINITY OF DUC CO ON OCT 5. ALTHOUGH AN ESTIMATED 150 ROUNDS WERE DIRECTED AT ONE AND "SEVERAL" AT THE OTHER, NEITHER AIRCRAFT WAS HIT. THE DEMONSTRATION IN PLEIKU ON OCT 5 (REPORTED ABOVE) WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED TO BREAK INTO TWO GROUPS, ONE OF WHICH WAS TO CONFRONT THE ICCS WITH ITS FAILURE TO ACT ON THE NVA SEIZURE OF LE MINH. THE INDONESIAN DELEGATE, WHO WAS CHAIRMAN AT THE TIME, AVERTED THE CONFRONTATION BY SENDING A LETTER IN WHICH HE SAID THE ICCS SHOULD NOT BE BLAMED AS IT HAD BEEN RENDERED INEFFECTIVE BY THE FACT THAT IT HAD ONLY THREE MEMBERS.

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INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 L-02 DODE-00

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DRC-01 /080 W

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O R 111030Z OCT 73
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7975
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMCONSUL CAN THO
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMCONSUL DANANG
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AMCONSUL NHA TRANG
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY FEHRAN
WUEMBASSY TOKYO 4661
ERUMJFS/AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 1906
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 4 OF 5 SAIGON 17790

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 4)

PART VII: MR-3

1. IN WEEK ENDING 0800 OCTOBER 10 MILITARY ACTIVITY MR MR-3 INCREASED SLIGHTLY FROM 75 TO 82 INCIDENTS. NEARLY HALF OF CONTACTS WERE IN TAY NINH, BINH DUONG AND HAU NGHIA PROVINCES ALONG TRADITIONAL INFILTRATION ROUTES LEADING TO SAIGON. GRENADE/MINE DETONATIONS LED LIST OF INCIDENTS (26), INDICATING RVNAF AGGRESSIVENESS IN PATROL/SEARCH OPERATIONS. 23 GROUND CONTACTS, 20 MORTARINGS (THREE OVER 20 ROUNDS) AND FOUR ARTILLERY/GROUND ATTACKS WERE ALSO REPORTED. INCIDENTS OCCURRED IN ALL 11 PROVINCES OF MR-3, WITH LOWEST LEVEL ACTIVITY IN BINH LONG. GVN LOSSES FOR WEEK WERE 12 KIA, 46 WIA AND TWO FARMERS ABDUCTED. COMMUNIST LOSSES WERE 29 KIA, ONE CIA. THERE WERE 14 RELIERS, THREE FROM NVA 9TH DIVISION, AND TWO ESCAPEES FROM COMMUNIST PRISON CAMPS.

2. TAY NINH PROVINCE WAS SCENE OF MOST INTENSE FIGHTING IN MR-3 IN PAST WEEK AS GVN FORCES CONTINUED SEARCH AND DESTROY OPERATIONS AGAINST COMMUNISTS FOLLOWING 25TH DIVISION FIASCO LAST TWO DAYS OF SEPTEMBER IN KHIEH HANH DISTRICT. ACTING ON ORDERS PRESIDENT THIEU, ARVN 25TH, BOLSTERED BY FIVE RF COMPANIES, IS REMAINING IN BATTLE AREA SOUTH OF CAU KHOI RUBBER PLANTATION IN ATTEMPT TO FLUSH OUT ENEMY TROOPS. ACCORDING TO III CORPS CG MINH, PRESIDENT ALSO ORDERED STRONG RETALIATION AGAINST THIS COMMUNIST "VIOLATION". CONSEQUENTLY, MINH IS USING UP TO 42 VNAF "TRAINING" SORTIES DAILY AGAINST ENEMY STRONGHOLDS IN NORTHERN PHU KHUONG DISTRICT. FOLLOWING TARGETS, INTER ALIA, WERE HIT: LOGO CANAL COMPLEX SOUTHWEST OF THIEN NGON NEAR CAMBODIAN BORDER, KATUM AIRSTRIP (70 PERCENT DESTROYED); TWO BRIDGES, SEVERAL HOUSES AND SUPPLY CACHES (DESTROYED). LATEST CASUALTY FIGURES ON "KHIEH HANH" BATTLE SHOW GVN LOSSES AS 47 KIA, 124 WIA (2/3 ONLY SLIGHTLY WOUNDED) AND 63 MIA (AT FIRST COUNT 297 WERE MIA). COMMUNISTS LOST 185 KBA. MR-3 CG MINH IS SARNING HIS COMMANDERS TO BE PREPARED DURING OCOTOBER FOR INCREASED ENEMY PRESSURES DESIGNED WEAR DOWN TROOP MORAL.

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3. THERE WERE TWO SIGHTINGS BY VNAF SPOTTER PLANES OF UNIDENTIFIED HELICOPTERS IN MORNING AND AFTERNOON OCTOBER 5. FIRST SPOTTING WAS 15 KMS. NE OF DON LUAN DISTRICT WHILE SECOND 6 KMS. NE OF PHU GIAO DISTRICT, BINH DUONG PROVINCE. CHOPPERS ARE PAINTED BLACK AND NOSE SECTION WITH DARK GREEN BODY AND RED TAIL. III CORPS GAIMS HELICOPTERS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AS RUSSIAN MADE MI 10'S EQUIPPED WITH CRANE LIFTS AND SPECULATES NVA OPERATE THEM FROM LOC NINH.

4. TONEL CHAM RANGER BASE (BORDER TAY NINH/BINH LONG PROMMNCES) WAS RESUPPLIED OCTOBER 7 WITH 70 PERCENT ACCURACY IN AIRDROPS, AND WILL NOT REQUIRE FURTHER SUPPLIES UNTIL NOVEMBER 15. COMMUNISTS HAVE RENEWED PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGNS IN LOUD-

SPEAKER BROADCASTS APPEALING TO ARANGERS TO SURRENDER. THEY ALSO SUGGESTED MEETING TO DISCUSS IMPLEMENTATION CEASE-FIRE AGREEMENT. THE RANGER CO WAS ORDERED TO WARN ENEMY THAT GVN WILL NOT GIVE UP BASE, AND THAT ANY THREAT TO IT WILL BE MET BY ANNIHILATION OF COMMUNIST STRONGHOLD AT LOC NINH.

5. ICCS: A TWO-MAN INDODEL TEAM WAS DEPLOYED AT AN LOC, BINH LONG PROVINCE, OCTOBER 6 AFTER ABSENCE SEVERAL MONTHS. INDODEL NOTIFIED CONSUL OF ICCS FINANCIAL PROBLEMS AND CLAIMED THAT RECENT REDUCTION IN PA&E EMPLOYEES IS ADVERSELY AFFECTING INDODEL OPERATIONS. COMMENT: INDODEL CONTINUES ACTIVE IN MR-3, MAKING SEVERAL VISITS EACH WEEK TO OBSERVE/INVESTIGATE COMMUNIST CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS. ON OTHER HAND, POLES AND HUNGARIANS WHILE AWAY THEIR TIME IN ABSENCE ORDERS FROM "HIGHER" TO PARTICIPATE IN INVESTIGATIONS. END COMMENT.

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AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
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CG FMFPAC
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COMUSMACTHAI
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 5 OF 5 SAIGON 17790

PART VIII: MR -4

1. SECURITY SITUATION. (A) REPORTED MILITARY ACTIVITY IN THE DELTA LAST WEEK WAS AT ABOUT THE SAME LEVEL THAT HAS PREVAILED SINCE MID-SEPTEMBER. MR IV CLAIMED 228 VC/NVA CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS OCTOBER 3-10. REPORTED CASUALTIES FOR THE WEEK INCLUDED 108 RVNAF KILLED AND 514 WOUNDED AND 448 VC/NVA KILLED.

(B) THE DELTA'S HEAVIEST FIGHTING CONCENTRATED AROUND THE VC/NVA TRI PHAP STRONGHOLD IN SOUTHERN KIEN TUONG AND NORTHERN DINH TUONG PROVINCES. THE 7TH ARVN DIVISION HAS MADE NO SERIOUS ATTEMPT TO PENETRATE TRI PHAP ITSELF, BUT IS CONTAINING THE ENEMY THERE AND SCORED SOME SUCCESSES IN INTERCEPTING ATTEMPTED INFILTRATIONS OF MEN AND SUPPLIES. ELEMENTS OF THE 7TH DIVISION'S 10TH REGIMENT AND RVNAF GUNSHIPS KILLED 81 OF AN ESTIMATED 300-MAN NVA INFILTRATION GROUP OCTOBER 3 NEAR KIEN BINH DISTRICT TOWN, KIEN TUONG PROVINCE (CAN THO 0751). INTERROGATION OF 16 NVA PRISONERS REVEALED THAT THE INFILTRATORS WERE PART OF THE E-207 REGIMENT, ASSIGNED TO REINFORCE TRI PHAP AND NORTHERN SAM GIANG DISTRICT, DINH TUONG. COMBAT REMAINED SPIRITED IN DINH TUONG, WITH NUMEROUS SMALL UNIT CONTACTS REPORTED IN CAI LAY, CAI BE, SAM GIANG, AND CHAU THANH DISTRICTS. THE 7TH DIVISION'S DONG TAM HOME BASE, NEAR MY THO, RECEIVED THREE 122 MM ROCKET ROUNDS, BUT SUFFERED NO CASUALTIES. MINES WERE REPORTED ON ROUTES 20 AND 29 AND A TRUCK DRIVER WAS WOUNDED BY AK-47 FIRE ON QL-4 AT 2200 HOURS OCTOBER 3 JUST EAST OF CAI LAY DISTRICT TOWN. IN A SECOND QL-4 INCIDENT, THE VC THREW A BARRIER ACROSS

THE ROAD DURING THE NIGHT OF OCTOBER 6/7 A FEW KILOMETERS EAST OF THE OCTOBER 3 SNIPING (XS362496). WHEN THE RF REMOVED IT THE NEXT MORNING A BOOBY TRAP EXPLODED WOUNDING TWO CIVILAINS. MEANWHILE, GVN LOCAL CADRE HAVE SUFFERED FROM VC/NVA TERRORISM. SINCE CEASEFIRE I, 48 VILLAGE AND HAMLET OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN KILLED, WOUNDED, OR ABDUCTED IN DINH TUONG. IN SEPTEMBER ALONE THREE VILLAGE CHIEFS, THREE VILLAGE COUNCILMEN, AND FOUR HAMLET CHIEFS WERE KILLED.

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(C) RANGERS OF THE 44TH STZ CONTINUED THEIR EFFORTS TO CLEAR THE NVA 101ST REGIMENT FROM GIAI MOUNTAIN, CHAU DOC. TWO MORE RANGER BATTALIONS WERE COMMITTED TO BATTLE LAST WEEK. TOTAL RANGER CASUALTIES IN THE MONTH-AND-A-HALF CAMPAIGN EXCEED 100 KILLED AND 600 WOUNDED. THE PREDICTED DISENGAGEMENT OF THE RANGERS FROM CHAU DOC HAS BEEN DELAYED, BUT SECTOR OFFICERS SAID THE RANGERS' ARTILLERY WILL LEAVE THE PROVINCE ON NOVEMBER 1. (CAN THO 0736 AND 0747).

(D) THE SOUTHERN DELTA REMAINED RELATIVELY QUIET. CHUONG THIEN AVERAGED 8-10 INCIDENTS DAILY BUT REPORTED NO SIGNIFICANT CONTACTS NOR VC/NVA MOVEMENTS. KIEN GIANG, WHERE VC/NVA UNITS RECENTLY POSITIONED THEMSELVES TO SECURE A SUPPLY ROUTE TO CHUONG THIEN (CAN THO 0747 AND A-118), SAW LITTLE FIGHTING SAVE FOR A FEW LIGHT GROUND CONTACTS IN HIEU LE DISTRICT. SECTOR EXPECTS A MODERATE HIGHPOINT SOMETIME NEXT MONTH. IN AN XUYEN'S THOI BINH DISTRICT, SCENE OF HEAVY FIGHTING IN MID-SEPTEMBER WHEN THE VC D-2 REGIMENT PENETRATED THE AREA (CAN THO 0726), APPEARS MOMENTARILY PACIFIED BY THE PRESENCE OF THE 21ST ARVN DIVISION'S 32ND REGIMENT. THE RECENT FIGHTING CAUSED ABOUT 70 PERCENT OF THE DISTRICT'S TAN PHU VILLAGE POPULATION TO FLEE THE AREA, AND GVN CIVIL SERVICES THERE HAVE VIRTUALLY CEASED.

2. VC/NVA ACTIVITIES; ACCORDING TO MR IV THE 1ST NVA DIVISION, HEADQUARTERED IN THE O MOUNTAIN AREA, TAKEO PROVINCE, CAMBODIA, IS BEING BROKEN UP. NVA PRISONERS HAVE SAID THE DIVISION'S COMMAND AND STAFF CADRE ARE MOVING TO THE "NAM BO" REGION OF GVN MR III (BINH LONG, TAY NINH, AND HAU NGHIA PROVINCES) TO HELP FORM NEW UNITS. ELEMENTS OF THE DIVISION'S E-44 AND E-46 REGIMENTS WILL JOIN THE 101ST REGIMENT OPERATING IN THE SEVEN MOUNTAINS AREA OF CHAU DOC UNDER THE COMMAND OF VC MR 3. THE 1ST DIVISION WAS FORMED JUST BEFORE THE 1968 TET OFFENSIVE AND ENTERED THE DELTA IN 1972. ITS DISSOLUTION REPORTEDLY IS PART OF AN NVA DRIVE TO "LOCALIZE" ITS UNITS IN THE GUISE OF VC FORCES.

3. ICCS/JMC: TWO RF BATTALIONS, TOGETHER WITH PF AND NATIONAL POLICE UNITS ARE SWEEPING THE AREA OF BA XUYEN WHERE ONE AMERICAN AND TWO VIETNAMESE ICCS CONTRACT EMPLOYEES WERE ABDUCTED OCTOBER 6, BUT HAVE FAILED TO TURN UP EVIDENCE OF THEIR FATE.

HOME ELM, PA&E CHIEF OF SECURITY FOR ICCS REGION VII, AND TWO
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VIETNAMESE COLLEAGUES WERE AMBUSHED IN THEIR TRUCK ON QL-4 AT
APPROXIMATELY 1945 HOURS OCTOBER 6 NEAR THANH TRI DISTRICT TOWN,
BA XUYEN. LOCAL INHABITANTS SAID THE AMBUSHERS CARRIED OFF ALL
THREE MEN INTO THE COUNTRYSIDE, THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT INJURIES
WERE INCURRED. AFTER THE PRG IN SAIGON DENIED RESPONSIBILITY,
THE ICCS REGION VII CHAIRMAN, POLISH COL FELIKS GROZOWSKI, CLAIMED
HE COULD DO NOTHING SINCE THE INCIDENT PROBABLY WAS PERPETRATED
BY "BANDITS."
MARTIN

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